

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL NATO CAPITALS IMMEDIATE

USMISSION NATO IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY MADRID

S E C R E T STATE 115823

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SP, NATO

SUBJECT: SPAIN AND NATO

USNATO HOLD FOR OPENING OF BUSINESS

1. RESULTS OF RECENT DISCUSSIONS WITH ALLIES CARRIED OUT PER REFTEL HAVE INDICATED, WITH SOME EXCEPTIONS SUCH AS THE FRG, GENERAL RELUCTANCE AT THIS POINT TO CONSIDER SPANISH MEMBERSHIP IN NATO, AND RESISTANCE TO PUBLIC STEPS TO LINK SPAIN WITH NATO WHILE FRANCO IS IN OFFICE. YET WE ALSO SENSE A WILLINGNESS ON THE PART OF THE ALLIES TO CONSIDER WAYS TO ASSIST THE US IN MEETING SPAIN'S INTEREST IN SOME PUBLIC MANIFESTATION OF ALLIED RECOGNITION OF SPAIN'S CONTRIBUTION TO WESTERN DEFENSE. WE BELIEVE ALLIES MAY BE PREPARED TO JOIN IN SUCH A STATEMENT IF IT IS JUSTIFIABLE ON THE BASIS OF MILITARY -- IN CONTRAST TO SECRET

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POLITICAL -- CONSIDERATIONS. BEARING IN MIND RECENT ALLIED COMMENTS, WE BELIEVE SUCH A STATEMENT COULD BEST BE EMBODIED IN THE COMMUNIQUE MARKING DPC MEETING MAY 22-23. ACCORDINGLY, MISSION SHOULD INTRODUCE FOLLOWING LANGUAGE

INTO DPC COMMUNIQUE DRAFTING:

BEGIN QUOTE.

MINISTERS REVIEWED WITH INTEREST THE STATUS OF UNITED STATES-SPANISH DEFENSE COOPERATION, AND NOTED THAT SPAIN, INCLUDING THROUGH ITS COOPERATION WITH THE US, CONTINUES TO PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN SUPPORT OF THE NATO DEFENSE EFFORT. END QUOTE.

2. IN SUPPORTING THIS LANGUAGE IN DISCUSSIONS WITH ALLIES AND LUNS GENERALLY, MISSION MAY NOTE:

-- SECRETARY SCHLESINGER INTENDS TO SPEAK TO TOPIC OF US-SPANISH DEFENSE COOPERATION, AND OF SPAIN'S IMPORTANCE TO THE WESTERN SECURITY POSTURE, DURING DPC.

-- AS ALLIES AWARE, US BELIEVES THAT ALLIES SHOULD CONSIDER WAYS TO BRING SPAIN CLOSER TO NATO, WITH A VIEW TO EVENTUAL MEMBERSHIP. US BASES THIS VIEW ON FACT THAT SPAIN IS IMPORTANT TO ALLIED DEFENSE IN A VARIETY OF WAYS, INCLUDING THE ABILITY OF THE US TO REINFORCE IN WESTERN EUROPE IN CASE OF NEED, AS WELL AS ON OUR BELIEF THAT THE NORTH ATLANTIC ALLIANCE COULD PROVIDE A STRONG, PURPOSEFUL FRAMEWORK TO SPAIN OVER THE COMING YEARS, AIDING IT IN FOLLOWING A STABLE, MODERATE COURSE.

-- THE US ALSO HAS POINTED OUT TO ALLIES THAT SPAIN HAS INDICATED A STRONG INTEREST IN THE CONTEXT OF BILATERAL US-SPANISH NEGOTIATIONS IN SOME FORM OF RECOGNITION BY NATO THAT IT IS MAKING AN IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTION TO THE DEFENSE OF WESTERN EUROPE. WE BELIEVE THIS IS A VALID SPANISH INTEREST, WHICH WE SUPPORT.

-- WE ALSO RECOGNIZE THAT SOME ALLIES BELIEVE IT IS PREMATURE TO CONSIDER A ROLE IN NATO FOR SPAIN, AND WE HAVE NOTED IN RECENT DISCUSSIONS WITH ALLIES A NUMBER OF
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POLITICAL SENSITIVITIES ON THIS SUBJECT, WHICH WE RESPECT.

-- ACCORDINGLY, WE BELIEVE THAT THE DPC CONTEXT WITH ITS EMPHASIS ON DEFENSE POLICY AND READINESS, IS A SUITABLE ONE IN WHICH TO EXPRESS AN APPRECIATION OF SPANISH CONTRIBUTION TO THE WESTERN DEFENSE EFFORT, WITHOUT IN THE PROCESS INDICATING A POLITICAL JUDGMENT ON SPAIN.

3. FYI. WE RECOGNIZE THAT ALLIES MAY WANT TO MODIFY WORDING WE HAVE PROPOSED, AND WE WOULD BE SATISFIED WITH AN ABRIDGED REFERENCE ALONG THE FOLLOWING LINES: QTE MINISTERS WERE BRIEFED ON THE STATUS OF US-SPANISH DEFENSE COOPERATION AND NOTED THAT SUCH COOPERATION PLAYS AN

IMPORTANT ROLE WITH REGARD TO ALLIED DEFENSE EFFORTS.
UNQTE. END FYI.

4. FOR ALL DPC CAPITALS. YOU SHOULD INFORM HOST
GOVERNMENTS THAT US IS INTRODUCING LANGUAGE CONTAINED IN
PARA 1 INTO DPC COMMUNIQUE DRAFTING IN BRUSSELS, AND ASK
FOR THEIR SUPPORT. YOU SHOULD EXPLAIN OUR REASONING FOR
MAKING THIS STEP ALONG LINES SET FORTH ABOVE IN PARA 2,
NOTING THAT WE HAVE BEEN INFLUENCED BY ALLIED REACTIONS
DURING RECENT DISCUSSIONS IN CAPITALS IN CHOOSING DPC
COMMUNIQUE RATHER THAN NATO SUMMIT DECLARATION AS FRAME-
WORK FOR AN ALLIED STATEMENT.

5. FOR ATHENS AND PARIS: POSTS MAY WISH TO INFORM HOST
GOVERNMENTS OF OUR INTENTION TO PROCEED IN DPC ALONG
ABOVE LINES.

6. FOR LISBON: WE BELIEVE IT IMPORTANT TO APPROACH
GOVERNMENT OF PORTUGAL EXPLAINING OUR INTENTIONS AS
OUTLINED ABOVE. HOWEVER, SHOULD EMBASSY HAVE SUGGESTIONS
FOR ALTERNATIVE WAYS OF APPROACHING GOP, WE WOULD WELCOME
RECOMMENDATIONS.

7. FOR BONN. SUGGEST YOU REVIEW THIS INSTRUCTION WITH
FOREIGN AND DEFENSE MINISTRIES, AND POINT OUT THAT WE
WILL ESPECIALLY WELCOME FRG SUPPORT FOR US PROPOSED
LANGUAGE.

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